

5.0 On-Going Wildfire Hazard Mitigation

Within the assessment area there are no other known wildfire hazard mitigation plans being developed or implemented. A high risk assessment and mitigation plan for “Communities at Risk” program implemented by the Bureau of Land Management has been completed for the western portion of Bear Lake County. This document constitutes the overall assessment and mitigation plan for Bear Lake County. The Bureau of Land Management will be implementing fuels reduction techniques between St. Charles and Bloomington during the summer of 2004. This effort should also be applied to areas south of St. Charles and Bloomington as several years of drought and no treatment has allowed significant woody debris to accumulate. Sagebrush stands are also becoming very dense and burdensome. Treatment would set back succession and reduce the potential for fire and associated intensity.

6.0 Values At Risk

Within the assessment area numerous wildlife habitats exist. The Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge is a 18,000 acre refuge home to many species of waterfowl and upland game birds. In addition, many small mammals, moose, deer. Reptiles inhabit the area. The area covered by this assessment is home to moose, deer, elk, bobcat, mountain lion and small mammals. Many birds are also found living the various conditions within the assessment area. Moose, Elk, Deer, small mammals and various birds utilize the landscape as cover and forage. The Pruess, Sublette and Boundary Mountain Ranges on the West side of Bear Lake County provide significant winter range for Mule Deer and Rocky Mountain Elk. Streams in the area provide habitat for cold water salmonids including the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout, which is a species of concern to Idaho Fish and Game. Many people visit or make the area their residence because of the abundant wildlife opportunities that are common to the assessment area. Wildlife in the area are cherished for their scenic and sporting values. Significant numbers of birdwatchers and tourists are drawn to the Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge to observe fowl and other wildlife.

Home values in the assessment area are highly variable due to the wide range of uses. Recreational homesites around Bear Lake and Bailey Creek range from \$50,000 to \$900,000 while many of the homes in the communities have a median value of \$65,000. These values only represent the value of the home and immediate property but does not include acreage used for agriculture including implements, storage buildings etc... There are also a number of small cabins and other structures used by early settlers that have historic value but are not usable in their present condition. One home within the assessment area is listed on the National Historic Home Registry and is currently unoccupied. Home construction steadily increased from 1970 until the year 2001 where a